

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, PINT, YE, YS

SUBJECT: TWINAM TALKS WITH YARG OFFICIALS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ABD KARIM AL-ARASHI STRESSES IN MEETING WITH TWINAM AND RANSOM. YAR'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL LETTER AND TWINAM'S VISIT AS VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF U.S. CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR YAR'S DETERMINATION TO WORK CLOSELY WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER FRIENDS IN WITHSTANDING SOVIET THREAT POSED FROM PDRY AND IMPORTANCE OF USG HELP IN MEETING YAR'S NEEDS IN MILITARY FIELD. END SUMMARY.

1. TWINAM AND RANSOM SPENT SOME 30 MINUTES 28 JUNE IN RATHER FORMAL BUT MOST CORDIAL EXCHANGE WITH PRESIDNTIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ABD KARIM AL-ARASHI, WHO WAS JOINED BY FORIEGN MINISTE AL-ASNAJ. HAVING OBVIOUSLY BENEFITTED BY REPORT OF TWINAM'S DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER ABD AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI PREVIOUS EVENING, ARASHI OPENED MEETING WITH LENGTHY AND ELOQUENT EXPRESSION F APPRECIATION FOR PROMPT AND SYMPATHETIC USG SHOW OF CONCERN FOR YAR'S SECURITY AND WELFARE IN WAKE OF GHASHMI'S ASSASSINATION.

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TWINAM THEN PRESENTED PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF CONDOLENCE AND SUPPORT AND HAVING READ IT AL-ARASHI EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL SENTIMENTS AND RE-ITERATED GRATITUDE FOR USG SUPPORT.

2. TWINAM THEN TALKED ON BASIS HIS INSTRUCTIONS, STRESSING PARTICULAR U.S. DETERMINATION TO WORK WITH FRIENDLY GOVERN-

MENTS IN COMBATING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND OUR BELIEF THAT COUNTERTERRORISM IS NOT THE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM. EXMPAHSIZING, IN LIGHT OF PRESENT SITUATION IN YEMEN, CURRENT U.S. CONSIDERATION OF WAYS IN WHICH WE IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN EXISTING PROGRAMS UNDER TRILATERAL MILITARY SUPPLY AND RELATIONSHIP. TWINAM PUT THIS ASPECT OF US/YAR RELATIONS IN BROAD CONTEXT OF SUCCESS OF TWO GOVERNMENTS, STRESSING TIES ACROSS POLITICAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SPECTRUM. TWINAM NOTED USG IMPRESSED BY ATTITUDE OF CALM DETERMINATION EVIDENT IN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER AFTER GHASHMI ASSASSINATION. IN CONGRATULATING AL-ARASHI ON HIS SELECTION AS PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND WISHING HIM SUCCESS IN HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, TWINAM NOTED PARTICULAR AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING OF THIS SORT OF ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN DIFFICULT PERIOD AS RESULT OF KENNEDY/JOHNSON ACCESSION AND SUGGESTED THAT IN FASHION SIMILAR TO THAT OF AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, PEOPLE OF YAR WOULD FIND RENEWED SENSE OF UNITY AND PURPOSE IN PULLING TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF NEW LEADER.

3. IN RESPONSE TO TWINAM'S INDICATION OF USG'S DESIRE THAT HE SEEK VIEWS OF YAR'S PRESENT SECURITY SITUATION, AL-ARASHI STRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS. YAR CONCERNED BY APPARENT FULL SEIZURE OF POWER BY MARXIST IDEOLOGIES IN PDY. THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT HEAVY SOVIET SUPPORT, AND SOVIET ROLE IN SOUTH YEMEN IS NOW
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MUCH STRENGTHENED. YAR LEADERSHIP DETERMINED TO WITHSTAND THIS THREAT AND TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM WHILE FURTHER PROGRESS AND WELFARE IN NORTH YEMEN. IN DOING SO, YAR COUNTS HEAVILY ON SUPPORT OF ITS FIENDS AND PARTICULARLY NOTES THE DEEPLY REASSURING SUPPORT OF SAUDI ARABIA AND U.S. YAR FEELS STRENGTHENED BY PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND TWINAM VISIT AS MANIFESTATIONS OF U.S. POLICY OF SUPPORT. WHAT IS NOW NEEDED IS EVIDENCE THAT U.S. SUPPORT WILL MATERIALIZE IN PRACTICAL AND TANGIBLE WAYS. YAR NEEDS U.S. HELP IN ASSESSING THE EXACT NATURE OF SOVIET THREAT FROM SOUTH YEMEN AND HOW BEST TO RESPOND TO IT. WHILE YAR APPRECIATIVE OF AMERICAN HELP RECEIVED TO DATE, THE FACT IS THE OVERHELMING BULK OF YAR'S MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS STILL SOVIET-SUPPLIED. YAR FEELS SERIOUS NEED FOR PROMPT, EFFECTIVE, U.S. ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE MILITARY FORCE. IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE MILITARY FORCE, YAR "NEEDS EVERYTHING" AND QUESTION IS SIMPLY "WHEN AND HOW TO GET."

4. TWINAM THANKED AL-ARASHI FOR HIS COUNSEL, SAID HE WOULD REPORT CHAIRMAN'S VIEWS FULLY TO USG, AND NOTED THAT U.S. AND YAR SEEMED IN FULL ACCORD IN POLICY AND

NOW FACE ONLY QUESTION OF MOST PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE
WAY TO MOVE FORWARD IN IMPLEMENTING EXISTING US/SAUDI
PROGRAMS FOR STRENGTHENING YAR MILITARILY.

5. IN CLOSING, AL-ARASHI, AFTER BRIEFLY REITERATING PRO-
FOUND APPRECIATION FOR U.S. PROFESSIONS OF SUPPORT SYMBOLIZED
IN THIS MEETING, STRESSED ONCE AGAIN IMPORTANCE OF IM-
PLEMENTING PRACTICAL STEPS TO STRENGTHEN YAR MILITARILY.
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